

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting one protocol from among a plurality of protocols to establish one or more communication sessions between two computers, where the first computer has an object and the second computer has an object-handle associated with the object, and where the object-handle identifies the plurality of protocols, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a. generating bid values for one or more protocols among the plurality of protocols identified by the object-handle upon ~~evoking~~ invoking on the second computer the object located on the first computer for each of said one or more communication sessions;
  - b. dynamically arranging the bid values in a sequence corresponding to their relative values so as to indicate the relative preference among the protocols for each of said one or more communication sessions; and
  - c. parsing the arranged bid values to select a protocol that is the highest preference according to the sequence and is effective in establishing each of said one or more ~~the~~ communication sessions.
2. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein the generating step further comprises the steps of:
  - a. referencing a predefined configuration that is associated with the second computer;
  - b. for each protocol among the plurality of protocols, determining whether the protocol qualifies according to the configuration; and
  - c. when the protocol qualifies, setting a bid value for the protocol according to the configuration.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 2, wherein the configuration includes a default value associated with a protocol, and the generating step further comprises the step of setting the bid value for the protocol equal to the default value on the condition that no other bid value for the protocol ~~bid~~ is determined.
4. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 2, wherein the configuration includes at least one property relating to one or more protocols among the plurality of protocols, wherein the property has an enabled and disabled state, and wherein the property is associated with a bid range, the method further comprising the steps of:
  - a. referencing a the property; and
  - b. setting the bid value for the protocol relating to the property equal to a value within the bid range associated with the property when the property is in the enabled state.
5. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 4, further comprising the step of setting the ~~one or more properties~~ property to the enabled or the disabled state based on signals from a user operating the second computer.
6. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the arranging step further comprises the step of determining that one of the bid values with a the lowest value ~~bid~~ is the most preferred and one of the bid values with a the highest value ~~bid~~ is the least preferred.
7. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 16, wherein the sequence of the bid values is ascending order ~~according to the bid values~~.
8. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein the generating step further comprises the steps of:
  - a. referencing a predefined configuration that is associated with the second computer; and

- b. setting a bid equal to a value within one of a plurality of prescribed ranges according to predefined rules in the configuration.
9. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 8, wherein the configuration includes a priority list, and the generating step further comprising the step of adjusting the bid values ~~value of the bids falling~~ within a single range according to the priority list specified in the configuration.
10. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 8, wherein the parsing step further comprises the step of determining one or more conditions associated with the plurality of prescribed ranges such that the bid values ~~bids falling~~ within each of the plurality prescribed ranges are parsed when the associated conditions are satisfied.
11. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 10, wherein the ranges include an exclusivity range with an associated condition that if there is at least one bid value within the exclusivity range, the bid values ~~bids falling~~ within ranges having lower preference than exclusivity range are not parsed.
12. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 10, wherein the ranges include a critical range with an associated condition such that the bid values ~~bids falling~~ within the critical range are parsed before the bid values in the ranges other than the critical ~~bids in any other range~~ are parsed.
13. (Withdrawn) A method for selecting one protocol from among a plurality of protocols to establish communication between a first computer and a second computer, where the first computer has an object and the second computer has an object-handle associated with the object, and where the object-handle identifies the plurality of protocols, the method comprising the steps of:
- a. defining a plurality of ranges such that each of the ranges represents a priority rule;



protocol and incorporating the user setting in the client configuration associated with the client.

16. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 14 wherein the bid values are based at least in part on a relative efficiency of the protocol in the structure connecting the server and the client.
17. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 14 wherein the bid values are based at least in part on user preferences for communication channel characteristics.
18. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 14 wherein the bid values are based at least in part on target object constraints.
19. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 14 wherein said bid values are based at least in part on privileges to use certain communications channels.
20. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 14 wherein said bid values are based at least in part on a client middleware infrastructure's support for certain protocols.